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## THE EDITOR



WE wish to call the special attention of our readers to the report of the Congress Committee given on another page. Judging from the tone of the meeting recently held in Buffalo, no time or labor will be spared to make the Congress a most interesting and delightful occasion. The August and September numbers of the JOURNAL will be given up largely to Congress matters, the September issue to be in the nature of a "Congress Souvenir."

As has been announced in the department of hospital news, the Editor will after June 1 be free to devote her entire time to the magazine, and after a few weeks of much-needed rest she hopes to do better work for the JOURNAL than has been possible in connection with the exacting duties of a difficult hospital position.

Two articles in the present number, "Baltimore's Work in Tuberculosis," by Miss Sherman, and the second paper of "The Report of the Tenement-House Committee," contributed by Miss Dock, are of especial interest because, although upon quite different lines, they deal with practically the same subject,—the prevention and spread of what is commonly called consumption. We believe that at the end of the century this terrible disease will be more thoroughly under control than small-pox is at the present time. The first step is in the education of the intelligent public, who have means within their power to provide better living conditions and better protection for the poor and ignorant.

If the trained nurse could be made to realize her responsibility as a public educator, what a tremendous factor she would become in all of these great problems of public health! It would not be necessary for her to be officially appointed a sanitary inspector, but just to talk intelligently upon such subjects as light and fresh air, common, everyday soap-and-water cleanliness, and the need for better housing and more careful medical inspection of schools and factories as she goes about from one family to another as a private-duty nurse. Think what the thirty thousand trained nurses in the United States could accomplish upon these lines if their interest and energies were only turned in this direction!

THE paper on "Medical Inspection of the Public Schools of Boston" was written for the May number of the *JOURNAL*, but came to hand a little too late, and, although upon somewhat the same lines as Miss Hay's paper, it deals with the subject so much more minutely from a medical stand-point that we have thought best to give it place in the present issue. The writer, Dr. Dewey, has been interested in this movement in Boston from the beginning, and speaks from the stand-point of one familiar with all of the practical detail.

It is quite a new departure for Boards of Managers to interest themselves in matters purely ethical that concern nurses in private practice, and it is with great interest that we note the action of the Board of Managers of the Old Dominion Hospital mentioned in the May issue of the *JOURNAL*, and the action contemplated by the Alumnae Associations and club women of Chicago in protesting against the wearing of the nurses' uniform by domestic servants. If once public sentiment can be aroused against this abuse, we believe much can be done to abolish the too prevalent fashion of dressing housemaids, waitresses, and childnurses in the uniform of the most popular training-school in the community.

This is a matter that, once having been agitated, might well be taken up by the nursing organizations of the country, and the coöperation of hospital managers be solicited in creating a popular prejudice against this custom. It will only be necessary to make it "bad form" for one's servants to be dressed as nurses, and the fashion will die a natural death.

WE feel that we owe a word of explanation to the members of the New York State Association for our failure to produce in the May number of the *JOURNAL* the photograph of the group which was taken upon the steps of the City Hall. It will be remembered by those who were present that when the request that such a photograph should be taken was first submitted to the meeting by the president, the convention voted in the negative. The "Editor" had at this moment left the room with the Nominating Committee, but it will be remembered that she returned and made a personal appeal to the members to reconsider their decision, that she might have a copy of a photograph of the convention for *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*. After taking the group the photographer disappeared in a mysterious way, and we were unable to locate him. Learning that he came from Saratoga, we commissioned Miss Brooks to look him up and arrange for a copy of the photograph to be sent to us immediately. A message came from the gentleman to

the effect that the plate was "light struck" and too poor to be reproduced in our JOURNAL, consequently our surprise and amusement may be imagined when a reproduction of the group was seen in another journal. But it may be a satisfaction to the disappointed members to know that the picture was quite as poor, from an artistic stand-point, as the photographer represented it to be.

THE committee appointed to act with the officers of the New York State Association to draft by-laws to be considered at the next meeting in Buffalo will have to deal with the burning question of eligibility,—whether membership in the society shall be individual or by representatives of nursing organizations, and if the latter, what kind of organizations. Before the next meeting each nurse should, as far as possible, study the form of organization which has been followed by State societies in other lines. The medical profession have not yet reached a plan of organization which is satisfactory to all, and we should at least profit by their experience in avoiding the rocks upon which they have split, if possible.

Representation from county societies would seem to be the simplest and most practical method but for one very serious objection,—namely, the fact that there is but one county society in New York State at the present time.

New York will watch with deep interest the lines upon which Illinois decides to organize.

New York State undoubtedly has the greatest number of nurses of any State in the country, but the great mass of these women are congregated in and about New York City. There is a small group in the centre of the State, and still another in the western extremity. The problem will be, how to gather in the scatterings.

